

From: Mary
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Justice Department:

I am deeply disturbed by the prosecution of the Microsoft Company and Microsoft Chair Bill Gates. With Microsoft products, I have had the option of using other manufacturer's software and was often supplied at hardware purchase with software like Lotus and Claris and browsers from Mosaic to Netscape. I have received immeasurable benefit from the features of Microsoft products and they continue to be my preference.

The reason I say this is that I very much resent the prosecution's contention that I am some kind of helpless consumer that can't even pick which software suits my purpose. And I don't believe the Justice department has the right to tell me what kind of deals I can make with my supplier.

The court's job is not to protect one business from another, but to arbitrate contracts and protect individual and property rights (businesses are owned by individuals). Microsoft products are not a threat to anyone. As I remember, this case didn't start with consumers like me feeling ripped-off, or even with a violation of any contract between Microsoft business partners. It started with Microsoft's unsuccessful competitors! Since when do competition's losers get to sue?

I want to live in a country where anyone with enough on the ball, putting in sufficient effort, can be a self-made-man like Bill Gates. That is the American Dream. It is a fundamental right! I want to know that my country is there to protect my right to my property, not to worry that if I succeed that my own country will take it away from me and turn it over to my competitors.

Sincerely,
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P.S. If I (the consumer) have been wronged, shouldn't I be the one getting the settlement?